Housing shortage in the country

1181. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated housing shortage in the country in 1981 and what is the annual percentage of increase in the Housing shortage at the end of 1986 (year-wise);

(b) what is the country's homeless population living on pavents etc. and that percentage of it constitutes to country's entire population;

(c) what is the estimated percentage of rise anticipated between demand and supply of housing by 2001 (year-wise); and

(d) the extent to which with the present rate of construction, the gap in housing demand is anticipated to be bridged by 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As per the National Buildings Organisation esimates, the housing shortage at the beginning of 1981 was 21.1 million dwelling units. The likely rate of increase in the shortage has been of the order of 4.3 per cent per annum as per the present estimate.

(b) According to the 1981 census data the homeless population living on pavements, etc. was 2.3 million which constitutes 0.34 per cent of the total population of the country.

(c) 4.3 per cent per annum.

(d) The information is not readily available.

Ore sorter plant at Khetri Copper Complex

1182. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sophisticated Ore sorter plant was imported from Canada a few years back and installed at the Khetri Copper Complex;

(b) if so, whether the Ore sorter plant is smoothly working and whether it is being fully utilised at present, and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) set up an Ore Sorter at Khetra Copper Complex as a Science & Technology project in 1984. The equipment was supplied by M|s. Ore Sorters (Ausralia) Private Ltd. Certain teething problems which initially affected performance have been rectified. Efforts towards further improvement in performance are continuing.

High yielding variety of wheat

1183. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new special high yielding variety of wheat has been developed by our agricultural scientists; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. Agricultural Scientists have evolved a number of wheat varieties specially suited to different stress environments of the country.

(b) List of the prominent varieties are given in the enclosed statement.